



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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FB14-020

NOAA Fisheries Requests Comments on Actions Affecting King and Spanish Mackerel in the South Atlantic (Comment Period Ends April 18, 2014)

NOAA Fisheries requests comments on proposed regulations to implement a South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework Amendment (Framework Amendment). The proposed rule for the Framework Amendment published in the *Federal Register* on March 19, 2014 [79 FR 15293].

The Proposed Rule for the Framework Amendment would:

- Allow Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, harvested with gillnet gear in the South Atlantic in excess of the trip limit, to be transferred to another federally permitted vessel that has not yet harvested the trip limit. This provision would be allowed under certain conditions:
 - If allowable gillnet gear is used to harvest Spanish mackerel.
 - Transfer takes place in federal waters between vessels with valid Spanish mackerel commercial permits.
 - The receiving vessel may possess no more than three gillnets on board after transfer is complete.
 - All fish exceeding the applicable daily vessel limit shall remain entangled in the meshes of the net until transfer.
 - The quantity of fish transferred to any single vessel shall not exceed the applicable daily trip limit.
 - Only one transfer per vessel per day would be allowed.
 - Call-in would be required for both vessels engaged in the transfer: NOAA Fisheries Port Orange Law Enforcement Office (386) 492-6686.

- Modify the king mackerel trip limit in the east coast Florida subzone as follows:
 - From November 1 through the end of February the trip limit is not to exceed 50 fish per trip.
 - Beginning on March 1 and continuing through March 31, if 70% or more of the Gulf group Florida east coast subzone quota has been harvested, the trip limit would remain 50 fish per trip. If less than 70% of the Gulf group Florida east coast subzone quota has been harvested, the trip limit would increase to 75 fish per trip.

Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **April 18, 2014**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

The Framework Action and the proposed rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/cmp/2014/sa_framework/index.html.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0162> click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- Mail: NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
c/o Kate Michie
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

More Information

For more information on the Framework Action, please click on this link to the [Framework Action Frequently Asked Questions](#).